

SAMPLE PARENT LETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Membership in the school orchestra program is an exciting adventure for your child. It is our desire to do all that we can do to make this a gratifying and worthwhile experience. It is important that the following steps are followed when deciding to play in the _____ School Orchestra Program.

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD?

The quality of the instrument is directly related to the success a child will have playing that instrument. The correct size is indicated below:

VIOLIN _____ **CELLO** _____ **VIOLA** _____

Your child will also need [**Whatever method book you would like to use**] for their respective instrument, and one set of extra strings. Those students playing violin or viola will also need a shoulder rest. Those students playing cello will need to purchase a rock stop or end pin strap.

1. Provide a safe place to keep the instrument.
2. Arrange a regular time for practice and see that your child consistently practices. Daily practice time is important for progress on his/her instrument. Fifteen minutes of concentrated effort every day is adequate in the very beginning. As your child progresses we suggest increasing his/her practice to a minimum of thirty minutes. Practice is homework for the string student. As with other homework most students need to be reminded.
3. Show an interest in your child's music study. You may hear strange sounds at first but with encouragement they will improve.
4. We recommend the rental/purchase plan offered by most local music dealers. We also suggest getting insurance offered with these plans to cover major as well as minor repairs. *Although price is important when looking for an instrument, quality and service will directly affect the success a child may have on that instrument.*
5. **MUSICAL SUCCESS WILL DEPEND HEAVILY ON THREE INGREDIENTS:
PARENT-PUPIL-TEACHER ALL WORKING TOGETHER.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at _____.

Sincerely,

[Your name and contact information]

I recommend rental/purchase plans offered by most local music dealers, especially for the students who need an instrument less than full size. Many of the local dealers will allow you to trade in fractional sized instruments when the student is ready to move up, and several of the local dealers have rent-to-own options, as well as options to upgrade from student to intermediate instruments.

Please consult with your child's orchestra director if you have a question concerning the quality and/or size of an instrument. **The quality of the instrument will determine your child's success.** I also recommend the purchase of insurance in case of damage/loss of an instrument.

If you have any questions about your child's instrument, please do not hesitate to contact me.

SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR MUSIC DEALER

Do you have a rental/purchase plan?

Do you have both new and rental instruments? (Ask to see a rental return if they offer one. Be sure it is in good condition)

Do all payments apply to the purchase price?

Do you have the instrument in stock?

Are you an authorized dealer for this brand [whatever brand they are carrying] of instrument?

Do you have an onsite repair shop?

What is the average repair time?

Do you provide loaner instruments when my instrument is in the shop for repair?

Can I purchase these items [rosin, strings, shoulder rests, rock stops, music stands, method books] here as well?